

Laura,

6/5/08

Since our conversation today, I decided to write down some Gateway history as I remember it. Share it with the folks at Gateway.

Gateway Pre-School opened its door in 1957. In 1960 it became a State Certified Pre-School. It was operated by the board of directors of The Association for Children With Communication Disorders, Inc. It was housed in a brick row house at 515 N. Wolfe St. (Across the street from Johns Hopkins Hospital.) Children came to school for 1/2 day. There was a morning or afternoon program. Parents paid tuition and had to bring their children to school. In 1966, 48 children were enrolled.

Vera Shenk was the Head Teacher. Some of the teachers were Ernestine Tetteh, Betty Kipe, Thelma Lombardi, Kitty Conkey, Harriet Stage and Marge Haupt. Betty Moorhead was the speech pathologist. Parents volunteered and worked in the classroom.

Some members of the Board were; Dr. William Hardy & Dr. Meriam Hardy from Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Cy Blanchard from University Hospital, Dr. Gloria Engroth from Baltimore County School, and members of the

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Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore City Health Dept. It was a professional board.

During the early 1960's they did a survey of services offered to children with hearing, speech or language disorders who lived in Metropolitan Baltimore. The survey found that children were being served at Gateway and at the Baltimore Hearing Society which was housed at 928 N. Charles St. A recommendation was made to merge Gateway and the Baltimore Hearing Society. This merger occurred in Dec. 1966. The Baltimore Hearing Society was merged into Gateway Pre-School and became The Hearing and Speech Agency of Metropolitan Baltimore, Inc. / Gateway Pre-School. A condition of the merger was that the Gateway School would retain its name. Jean Chapman became Executive Director and Acting Principal of Gateway.

In September 1967, Gateway moved to 808 Park Ave. We rented the building from the First Presbyterian Church. I had an office in the school building and Jean Chapman's office was at 928 N. Charles St.

Speech Pathologists worked out of 928 N. Charles St. They saw children for individual speech therapy at Gateway. In addition,

they saw clients for individual therapy at 928 N Charles St. (They worked from 9 to 5). This housing arrangement continued until 1975 when we all moved to 2220 St Paul St.

In 1970, by law, the children of Maryland received appropriate special education services without cost to parents and transportation was included. This law included children from birth to age 21. The Parent Infant Toddler Program began. Barbara Yenners became the first Educational Director of Gateway.

In 1975, Anita Davidson became Educational Director of Gateway. The school expanded to include school age children who received a full day program. Enrollment increased. The name was changed to Gateway School.

In 1980, Holly North became Educational Director. During her tenure Bridges School became a reality. The school was designed for children who needed special education services but were not appropriate for Gateway. Holly North was Educational Director of both schools. Bridges School was housed in a different location. Parents had to pay costs and supply their own transportation. It was in operation for a few years.

Jean Chapman retired in Nov. 1994. I retired in Dec. 1994 and Holly North moved to Portland, Oregon in Jan. 1995.

Gateway was my vocation. I worked there from Sept 1966 to Dec. 1994.

Gateway I loved you!
Gertrude Holt

